



THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসাধাৰণ

EXTRAORDINARY

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR
ASSAM ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

NOTIFICATION

The 19th December, 2024

AERC (DEMAND RESPONSE), REGULATIONS 2024

AERC No.929/2024/17.- In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (zp) of sub-section (2) of section 181 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003), the Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (AERC) hereby makes the following regulations namely the Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (Demand Response) Regulations, 2024.

CHAPTER – I: GENERAL

1. Short title and commencement:

- These Regulations shall be called the Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (Demand Response) Regulations, 2024.
- These Regulations shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions:

- In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires-
 - “Act” means the Electricity Act, 2003 and amendments thereof;
 - “Aggregator” is an entity registered with the Distribution Licensee to provide

aggregation of one or more of the services like demand response services under the demand response mechanism, Distributed Generation, Energy Storage etc. within a licensee area;

- c) "**Ancillary Services**" in relation to power system operation, means the service necessary to support the grid operation in maintaining power quality, reliability and security of the grid and includes Primary Reserve Ancillary Service, Secondary Reserve Ancillary Service, Tertiary Reserve Ancillary Service, active power support for load following, reactive power support, black start and such other services as defined in the Grid Code;
- d) "**Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**" is a statutory body under the administrative control of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India responsible for standardization, product and system certification, hallmarking, etc. BIS is also responsible for standardization and certification at the international level;
- e) "**Central Electricity Authority**" is a statutory organization originally constituted under section 3(1) of the repealed Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 since substituted by section 70 of the Electricity Act, 2003;
- f) "**Commission**" means Assam State Electricity Regulatory Commission;
- g) "**Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum**" means the Forum for Redressal of Grievance of consumers to be constituted by each Distribution Licensee in accordance with AERC (Redressal of Consumer Grievances) Regulations, 2022 and its subsequent amendments;
- h) "**Control Period**" is the period as defined by the Commission in the AERC (Terms and Conditions for determination of Multi Year Tariff) Regulations and its amendments thereof as notified by the Commission from time to time;
- i) "**Cyber Security**" shall carry the meaning as defined in Central Electricity Authority (Cyber Security in Power Sector) Regulations and / it's amendments thereof.
- j) "**Demand Response (DR)**" means balancing the demand on power grids by encouraging customers to shift or curtail/avoid electricity demand to times when electricity is more plentiful or other demand is lower, typically through prices or monetary incentives or due to any other policy or regulatory interventions;
- k) "**Distributed Generation (DG)**" means power generation at the point of consumption;

- l) "**Distribution Licensee**" means a licensee authorized to operate and maintain a distribution system for supplying electricity to the consumers in his area of supply;
- m) "**Evaluation, Measurement and Verification**" means activities undertaken to evaluate, monitor, measure and verify the progress, performance, or other aspects of Demand Response Programs;
- n) "**Grid Code**" also referred as Assam State Grid Code means the set of principles and guidelines prepared in accordance with the terms of section 86 (1)(h) of the Electricity Act 2003;
- o) "**Interoperability**" means the measure of ease of integration between two systems or software components to achieve a functional goal;
- p) "**Key Performance Indicator (KPI)**" is a type of performance measurement to evaluate its success, or to evaluate the outcome of a particular activity in which it is engaged;
- q) "**Licensed Business**" means the functions and activities, which the licensee is required to undertake in terms of the license granted by the Commission or deemed license under the act;
- r) "**Licensee**" means a person who has been granted a license under the section 14 and shall include a deemed licensee;
- s) "**Monitoring and Reporting**" means monitoring of the Demand Response Programs undertaken by the Distribution Licensee and periodical reporting thereon.
- t) "**Ombudsman**" means an authority appointed or designated by the Commission under a separate Regulation issued for the purpose under sub-section (6) of section 42 of the Act, to whom a representation may be made by any consumer aggrieved in case of non-redressal of grievances by the Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum;
- u) "**Point of Supply**" means a point at which the consumer's installation and/or apparatus are connected to Distribution licensee's distribution system and shall be the incoming terminal of the switchgear/cut out installed by the consumer;
- v) "**Prosumer**" means a person who consumes electricity from the grid and can also inject electricity into the grid for distribution licensee, using same point of supply;
- w) "**Smart Grid**" means an electricity network that can integrate the actions of all

users connected to it using advanced metering, communication, and information technology to deliver electricity efficiently, sustainably, reliably and securely.

- 2) The words and expressions used and not defined in these Regulations but defined in the Act, Rules and Regulations framed thereunder shall have the meaning assigned to them in the Act, Rules and Regulations.

Applicability of Regulations

- 1) These Regulations shall be applicable to all Distribution Licensees, Aggregators and all categories of Consumers in the State connected to the state grid.
- 2) The Licensee shall ensure that aggregator and/or other third parties (e.g. IT Providers (hardware & software), meter suppliers, consumers, etc.) involved in demand response program comply with these Regulations through appropriate conditions in the respective contracts.
- 3) These Regulations shall extend to the whole of state of Assam.

CHAPTER II: DEMAND RESPONSE OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, TARGETS AND GUIDELINES

4. Demand Response Objectives

- 1) The objectives include:
 - a) To make DR an integral part of the day-to-day operations of the Distribution Licensee with the objectives of bringing economy and optimal asset utilization;
 - b) To promote and implement load shifting, power shortage mitigation, seasonal peak reduction, reduction in Green House Gases emission related measures.
 - c) To optimize short-term power procurement vis-à-vis cost of electricity.
 - d) To implement pricing initiatives i.e., expand the scope and applicability of Time of Use tariff etc.
 - e) To enhance network security and balance electricity supply and demand.;
 - f) To reduce distribution network congestion.
 - g) To enable consumers and aggregators to provide Ancillary Services through DR program.
 - h) To enable effective integration of Renewable Energy/Distributed Generation.
- 2) The Commission may amend the objectives in accordance with National DR objectives/Plan /Roadmap formulated by Ministry of Power or otherwise at its discretion considering the state specific requirements.

5. Scope of the Regulations

- 1) These Regulations deal with:
 - a) Approval of investments required for implementation of DR Programs consistent with the objectives;
 - b) Incentive/dis-incentive design for consumers, aggregators, prosumers, and distribution licensees to ensure maximization of the efficiency gain through the DR Program;
 - c) Protection of consumer privacy and maintaining integrity of data;
 - d) Adoption by all entities, the relevant equipment, network and interoperability standards and codes within the ambit of these Regulations;
 - e) Work operations, particularly with respect of cyber security;

- 2) All entities covered under these Regulations (as per regulation 3 of this regulation) are required to demonstrate adherence to the requirements, stipulated herein through appropriate reporting structures.

6. Demand Response Targets

- 1) Distribution licensees shall assess the DR potential before 9 months of the start of the control period and submit DR potential assessment report to the Commission; Provided that for the next control period (FY 2025-26 to FY 2029-30), the distribution licensees shall assess the DR potential for FY 2026-27 to FY 2029-30 within 9 months from the date of notification of these regulations and submit DR potential assessment report to the Commission.
- 2) The Commission shall review and establish DR targets based on DR potential assessed by the distribution licensees such as % reduction in overall demand, % reduction in peak demand, % reduction in peak demand in different seasons, % reduction in short term power procurement for DR, etc. within 3 months from submission of the DR potential assessment report by the distribution licensee.
- 3) While setting DR targets for the Distribution Licensee, the Commission shall consider following:
 - a) DR potential assessed in the state by the Distribution Licensee;
 - b) Number of consumer categories and number of consumers to be targeted;
 - c) Electricity demand forecast carried out by the Distribution Licensee;
 - d) Capital expenditure planned for addition of new distribution infrastructure by the Distribution Licensee.
- 4) Distribution licensees shall comply with the DR targets established by the Commission from time to time.

7. Demand Response Guidelines

- 1) The Commission may from time-to-time issue guidelines for the Distribution Licensee in execution of the activities including but not limited to following:
 - a) Design & Development of DR Programs
 - b) Implementation of DR Programs (including methodologies to establish energy consumption, and measurement of demand reduction offered by customers).
 - c) Cost Effectiveness Assessment of DR Programs

- d) Evaluation, Measurement & Verification of DR Programs
- e) Monitoring and Reporting of DR Programs
- f) Customer data protection
- g) Database development framework and information system requirements

2) Issuance of such guidelines shall not be a pre-requisite for preparation and submission of first DR program by the Distribution Licensee.

CHAPTER III: DEMAND RESPONSE CELL

8. Constitution of Demand Response Cell, its roles & responsibilities

- 1) The Commission directed the distribution licensees to constitute Demand Side Management (DSM) Cell under AERC (Demand Side Management) Regulations, 2012 and its amendments thereof from time to time.
- 2) The DSM Cell shall be made the nodal agency to drive the DR implementation in these regulations.
- 3) In case DSM Cell has not been constituted, Distribution Licensee shall constitute DR Cell which shall also look after the activities for DSM cell, and shall submit the compliance report to the Commission within one month from the date of notification of these regulations;
- 4) The Cell shall be headed by a Chief General Manager of Distribution Licensee. The Chief General Manager will be the nodal officer for Demand Response activities in the state of Assam.
- 5) The Cell shall be provided with necessary authority and resources by the Distribution Licensee to enable it to execute the functions assigned to it under these regulations.
- 6) The Cell may include members having 5 years of experience in power purchase, network planning and load management. They shall have a minimum tenure of 3 years. Any change before the officer/official completes three years shall require prior approval of the Commission;
Provided that, the officers/ officials in DR cell shall have a minimum of 5 years of experience in DISCOM operations.
- 7) The Cell shall be responsible for:
 - a) Assessment of DR Potential, forecasting of long-term electricity demand, etc.
 - b) Conduct load research and baseline study
 - c) Formulation of DR Programs
 - d) Design and development of DR programs including cost benefit analysis, plans for implementation, monitoring & reporting and for measurement & verification.
 - e) Seeking necessary approvals from the Commission to implement DR Programs,

- f) Implementation of DR Programs
- g) Evaluation, Measurement & Verification of DR Programs
- h) Monitoring and Reporting of DR Programs to the Commission
- i) Customer data protection
- j) Any other additional function that may be assigned by the Commission from time to time.

8) The absence of a Cell shall not limit the implementation of the DR programs by the Distribution Licensee.

9) The distribution licensee shall submit an annual report on working of DSM/ DR cell including details of cell members, budget allocated, and budget utilized for the DR related activities in a year/ and the benefits thereof;

Provided that, the distribution licensee shall publish the annual report on DR on its official website.

CHAPTER IV: DEMAND RESPONSE PROCESS

9. Baseline study and overall potential estimation

- 1) The Distribution Licensee shall undertake the study to establish baseline by considering parameters such as peak demand, load shedding hours, quantum of load shedding, consumer category-wise number of consumers, increase in load, variations in load patterns based on weather conditions etc. and estimate overall DR potential, as mentioned in regulation 6 (1).
- 2) The Distribution Licensee shall undertake detail load research study to identify major consumer categories who could be potential DR participants, estimate potential for deployment of specific efficiency technologies and applications, establish key performance indicators, and determine existing baseline technical conditions.
- 3) On the basis of the results of baseline study, the distribution licensee shall develop Demand Response Program for its area of supply.
- 4) The Distribution Licensee shall also develop a comprehensive database of large consumers who could be potential participants of DR programs.
- 5) The Distribution Licensee shall design, develop, and implement few pilot DR programs targeting different consumer categories having smart meter installed till the complete baseline data is available for its area of supply. Establishment of baseline data shall not be a pre-requisite for design of such initial pilot DR Programs by the Distribution Licensee.

10. Development of Demand Response Programs

- 1) Based on the approved DR target by the Commission, the Distribution Licensee shall develop a program document.;
- 2) Program document shall include following for each DR program proposed:
 - (a) Objectives and rationale for the program
 - (b) Description and type of the program
 - (c) Technical feasibility study; if any
 - (d) Targeted stakeholders and estimated level of participation
 - (e) Estimation of baseline
 - (f) Assessment of cost effectiveness of the program in line with Demand Response Guidelines issued by the Commission

- (g) Mechanism for recovery of cost
- (h) Benefits of the DR program for distribution licensee and consumers
- (i) Marketing, delivery strategy and Implementation schedule
- (j) Implementation mechanism e.g., with/without Aggregator
- (k) Monitoring and evaluation plan
- (l) Incentives offered to the Stakeholders
- (m) Plan for increasing awareness among the stakeholders
- (n) Bill of quantity for the implementation of DR program (hardware, software, infrastructure etc.)
- (o) Any other information that may be stipulated by the Commission from time to time.

3) The selection and prioritization of various DR programs shall be guided by the following factors:

- (a) DR objectives defined in Regulations (4);
- (b) DR programs having high visibility therefore potential for creation of awareness within consumers.
- (c) Divisions of Distribution Licensee having maximum installation of smart meters;
- (d) DR programs with higher Benefit-to-Cost Ratio (BCR)

4) For each DR Program, cost benefit analysis shall be carried out as per the guidelines issued by the Commission on cost effectiveness from time to time.

11. Review and Approval of Demand Response Program Document

- 1) Prior to implementing any DR Program, the Distribution Licensee must obtain approval of the Commission.
- 2) The Distribution Licensee shall submit the Program document to the Commission for approval along with Multi Year Tariff (MYT) petition before 4 months of the beginning of every control period. The Distribution Licensee shall submit the Program document in hardcopy and softcopy;

Provided that for the next control period, the distribution licensee shall submit DR program document for FY 2026-27 to FY 2029-30, to the Commission for approval along with the Annual Performance Review and tariff petition by 30 November 2025.

- 3) The Commission shall scrutinize the Program document submitted by the Distribution Licensee. Any specific observations and suggested revisions shall be conveyed to the Distribution Licensee. The Distribution Licensee after addressing all the comments shall re-submit the revised DR Program document to the Commission within stipulated timeframe.
- 4) The Commission shall evaluate revised Program document submitted by the Distribution Licensee and convey the same to the Distribution Licensee with such modifications as may be considered necessary.
- 5) The Commission may seek clarifications from the Distribution Licensee and accord approval to the Program document after taking into consideration clarifications/additional information provided by the Distribution Licensee.
- 6) The Commission may adopt procedures as specified in the AERC (Conduct of Business Regulations), 2004 and its amendments thereof from time to time, for approval of the program document.
- 7) The Commission shall approve a DR Program along with the MYT Order before the start of the control period;

Provided that for the next control period, the Commission shall approve a DR program for FY 2026-27 to FY 2029-30 along with the Annual Performance Review and Tariff Order for FY 2026-27.

- 8) The Commission, while according to approval to the Program document, may identify costs, if any, relating to the Program, and decide the methodology, procedure, process for recovery of such costs.

The Commission may provide the incentive / dis-incentive mechanism for the Distribution Licensee linked to the execution, implementation, and performance during the life of the program based on the BCR.

The Commission may also specify financial incentives/dis-incentives to participating consumers to encourage active and effective participation in the DR Programs.

- 9) The Commission may modify the proposal as deemed fit in order to ensure its consistency with overall objectives.
- 10) Distribution Licensees may submit program documents for approval of additional DR programs during the control period from time to time.

12. Execution of Demand Response Programs

- 1) The Distribution Licensee shall execute the Program in line with the approval given

by the Commission and other directions issued by the Commission from time to time.

- 2) The Distribution Licensee and other agencies responsible for implementation of the DR Programs shall ensure that protection of consumer data and consumer privacy is accorded the highest levels of priority.

13. Mechanism for Cost Recovery

- 1) The Distribution Licensee shall identify the net incremental costs, if any, associated with planning, design, and implementation of DR Programs. Such costs should also include the rebates/incentives that may be offered to the consumers as well as administration cost for implementing the Program.
- 2) The Distribution Licensee may propose methodology for recovery of net incremental costs through tariff or any other mechanism.
- 3) In order to qualify for cost recovery, each program must be:
 - (a) Approved prior to implementation, and
 - (b) Implemented in accordance with the approved Program document.
- 4) The recovery of the costs of the DR Program may be through one or more of the following:
 - (a) The Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) determination process, which may include a component of costs to be recovered through the regular ARR and tariff process during the year;
 - (b) Through specific tariff schemes and designs as described in Regulation 19 (9), that would be incident on the participating consumers;
 - (c) Through design of surcharge to be recovered through specified consumer categories;
 - (d) Through identifying and pricing new services including reliability guarantees/slabs;
- 5) The Commission shall specify the cost recovery methodology to be adopted, through orders or guidelines.
- 6) The Commission shall ensure that the incremental cost does not exceed the incremental benefits to the consumers.

CHAPTER V: DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAM EVALUATION

14. Demand Response Program, Project Monitoring & Completion Report

- 1) The Distribution Licensee shall prepare plan and undertake monitoring and reporting of DR Programs, as per Demand response guidelines issued by the Commission from time to time or as approved by the Commission while approving the DR Program.
- 2) The Distribution Licensee will prepare and submit a detailed Program, Project Completion Report and submit the same to the Commission within 6 months of completion of such Program.
- 3) The Report shall cover the Program expenses, physical achievements, constraints and challenges faced, recommendations, lessons learned, way forward and deviations, if any.
- 4) The Distribution Licensee shall place the completion report in public domain through its website.

15. Evaluation, Measurement and Verification of the Demand Response Program

- 1) The Distribution Licensee shall prepare plan for evaluation, measurement and verification of Key Performance Indicators achieved from DR Programs as per Demand response guidelines issued by the Commission from time to time.
- 2) Third party Evaluation, Measurement and Verification of DR Programs may be undertaken by the Commission.

While engaging the agency, the Commission shall ensure that the Agency is not undertaking any other engagement which could conflict with the interests of the consumers in the State.

- 3) The Distribution Licensee shall make available necessary information/data to the Commission, or third party assigned by the Commission to measure and verify the savings from DR Programs.
- 4) The Distribution Licensee shall also submit an evaluation report to the Commission, including the following:
 - a. Methodologies for measurement and verification
 - b. Baseline methodology used for calculations and settlement for consumer in case of specific DR events triggered.
 - c. Consumer participation in DR events
 - d. Cost and benefits of DR program
 - e. Key outcomes
 - f. Lessons learnt and way forward

CHAPTER VI: STANDARDS FOR DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAM

16. Standards related to Demand Response

- 1) **System standards:** The distribution licensee shall normally adopt the system standards as per the Regulations notified by the CEA from time to time. Where available CEA or BIS standards shall be complied with for all system and network operational matters related to DR. Where CEA or BIS standards are not yet in place, relevant IEC/IEEE/ANSI Standards should be followed in that order.
- 2) **Network and communication standards:** Where standards related to interoperability and cyber security are in place by either CEA or BIS then they shall be adopted. Where these standards are not yet in place, relevant IEC/IEEE/ANSI Standards should be followed in that order.
- 3) **Product standards:** Where available BIS standards shall be complied with for all equipment and technology related to DR. Where BIS standards are not yet in place, relevant IEC/IEEE/ANSI Standards should be followed in that order.
- 4) An indicative list of applicable regulations and standards is appended as Annexure – A;

Provided that wherever system standards are specified by the Commission, the same shall be adopted.

17. Customer Data Protection Standards

- 1) The Distribution Licensee and other implementers of the DR Programs shall ensure that protection of consumer privacy is accorded the highest levels of priority in the design of the DR programs and the corresponding investment plans.
- 2) Consumer data shall be protected through appropriate levels of encryption and access controls and shall ordinarily not be shared with external agencies without explicit authorization of the Commission or unless required by statutory authorities or by courts of law. If deemed necessary for effective implementation, the Commission shall allow Distribution Licensee to disclose consumption data to third parties. The following conditions shall apply in such circumstances:
 - a) Data shall be classified as:
 - i. Personally Identifiable Information (PII), which consists of customer names, addresses, identification numbers, and other information that specifically identifies the person or entity to which it applies.
 - ii. Customer-Specific Energy Usage Data (CEUD), which in most cases,

does not identify an individual customer but includes detailed information about the utility service provided to the customer.

- b) Data access by parties providing services shall only be permitted with explicit authorization of designated senior officers of the Distribution Licensee who are duly authorized by the Board of Directors of the Distribution Licensee to provide such data under required confidentiality, non-disclosure and non-unrelated use agreements. Such third parties shall be permitted access to all aggregated consumption data as well as CEUD data. No PII data shall be disclosed to third parties.
- c) The Commission, upon request of the Distribution Licensee, shall also approve third party service providers to have direct access to consumers and their consumption data as part of a DR program approved by the Commission. The Distribution Licensee shall permit such access through appropriate confidentiality arrangements with such third parties.
- d) It is explicitly clarified that neither the concerned Distribution Licensee nor the third parties permitted data access would be permitted to sell or disseminate the consumer data to any other party or use for any other purpose other than the purpose specified for the DR Program.
- e) Consumers shall have access to all of their own consumption data, which may be appropriately displayed on the meter display of the consumer and/or on authorized websites, with suitable levels of access control and security.

- 3) Disputes on consumer privacy and data protection shall be resolved through the Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum & Electricity Ombudsman.
- 4) The Commission may at its discretion specify rules for customer privacy and data protection that the licensee shall be obliged to follow.
- 5) Distribution licensees or aggregators shall ensure that all IT products (hardware & software) are procured as per guidelines issued by CEA on Cyber Security in Power Sector.

18. Testing and Certification: The Commission shall require the Distribution Licensee to provide a certificate of compliance to specific standards from the designated nodal authority for the DR equipment installed.

CHAPTER VII: CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT AND INCENTIVES**19. Customer Participation and Incentives**

- 1) Where the program is to be rolled out over a geographical area, consumers shall be deemed part of the program. Depending on the nature of the specific DR program, individual consumers may be permitted by the Commission to "opt in" or "opt out" of the program. Where relevant, the Commission shall specifically deal upon such aspects in its orders.
- 2) The distribution licensee may propose financial incentives such as Enrolment based, Participation based, Performance based etc. or any other methodology of incentives according to the level of DR programs and cost benefit analysis.
- 3) For each such incentive program, the Distribution Licensee shall demonstrate cost benefits firstly to the consumer in general and then the Distribution business. The project details including the projected incentive to be paid to the consumer and the calculation of the incentive mechanism shall be included within the DR Program document.
- 4) The program design may include involvement of third parties or aggregators. In such cases, the program design shall also include incentive/disincentive structure involving such third parties or aggregators as well.
- 5) The Commission shall review and approve proposals for financial incentives to participating consumers to encourage active and effective participation in the DR programs. The Commission shall review the incentive programs based on consumer/ prosumer and utility feedback and the overall response observed on the DR Programs.
- 6) Full details of the program shall be made available on the Distribution Licensee's website and details of rebates, incentives and penalties shall be listed as items on the participating consumers electricity bill. However, it should be ensured by the Licensee that Personally Identifiable Information of consumers (as mentioned in regulation 17(2)) is not shared on the website.
- 7) The Licensee shall grant consumers enrolled in DR programs access to their data via a consumer web-based portal, in-home display, or similar accessible means.
- 8) The Commission, at the request of a Licensee implementing a DR programs or on its own initiative may implement/extend specific tariff regimes for DR programs such as Time of Use (ToU) tariff, Real-Time Pricing (RTP), Critical Peak Pricing

(CPP) etc. in line with Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for determination of Multi Year Tariff) Regulations, 2024, and its amendments thereof from time to time.

- 9) The tariff design may reflect suitable incentives as well as dis-incentives/ penalties for the consumer participating in the tariff Program based on the level of adherence to the program requirement.

20. Awareness and Capacity Building

- 1) In the development phase of DR programs, there would be significant needs for customer/prosumer education and outreach. The Distribution Licensee shall earmark a portion of the program cost for each DR program towards consumer awareness and capacity building. The cost towards consumer awareness and capacity building for DR program shall be approved by the Commission.
- 2) As part of the DR Program document, the Distribution Licensee shall define a clear internal and external communication strategy that identifies the critical communication needs and linking the same to the key program components. The Commission may reject program proposals or may require revisions to the communication strategy if required.
- 3) The distribution licensees shall publish DR program related documents on their official website for consumer awareness.

CHAPTER VIII: MISCELLANEOUS

21. Issue of Orders and Practice Directions:

- 1) Subject to the provision of the Act and these Regulations, the Commission may, from time to time, issue Orders and Practice directions with regard to the implementation of these Regulations and procedure to be followed on various matters, which the Commission has been empowered by these Regulations to direct and matters incidental or ancillary thereto.

22. Power to Remove Difficulties:

If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of these Regulations, the Commission may, by a general or special order, not being inconsistent with the provisions of these Regulations or the Act, do or undertake to do things or direct the Distribution Licensee to do or undertake such things which appear to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of removing the difficulties.

23. Power to Relax:

The Commission, for reasons to be recorded in writing, may relax any of the provisions of these Regulations on its own motion or on an application made before it by an interested person.

24. Interpretation:

If a question arises relating to the interpretation of any provision of these Regulations or its relationship and interplay with any other regulation of the Commission, the decision of the Commission shall be final.

25. Power to Amend:

The Commission may, at any time add, vary, alter, modify or amend any provisions of these regulations. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of these Regulations, the Commission may, by general or specific order, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of the Act, as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty.

26. Saving of the Inherent Power of the Commission:

- 1) Nothing in this Regulation shall be deemed to limit or otherwise affect the inherent power of the Commission to make such orders as may be necessary for ends of justice to meet or to prevent abuses of the process of the Commission.
- 2) Nothing in this Regulation shall bar the Commission from adopting in conformity with the provisions of the Act, a procedure, which is at variance with any of the

provisions of this Regulation, if the Commission, in view of the special circumstances of a matter or class of matters and for reasons to be recorded in writing, deems it necessary or expedient for dealing with such a matter or class of matters.

- 3) Nothing in this Regulation shall, expressly or impliedly, bar the Commission dealing with any matter or exercising any power under the Act for which no Regulations have been framed, and the Commission may deal with such matters, powers and functions in a manner it thinks fit.

ASHOK KUMAR BARMAN, (RETD.),
Secretary,
Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission.

ANNEXURE A – LIST OF INDICATIVE REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES, AND STANDARDS

1. Central Electricity Authority (Grid Standards) Regulations, 2010
2. Central Electricity Authority (Measures relating to Safety and Electric Supply) Regulations, 2023
3. Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operations of Meters) Regulations, 2006 and amendment thereof.
4. Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of Meters) Specification, 2016
5. Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Communication System in Power System Operations) Regulations, 2020
6. Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Connectivity of the Distributed Generation Resources) Regulations, 2013 and its amendment thereof
7. Central Electricity Authority (Cyber Security in Power Sector) Guidelines, 2021
8. Central Electricity Authority: Functional Requirements for Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), 2016